

Application No: 10/718,512

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Original) A SMIF pod, comprising:  
a pod, having a pod shell and a pod door, said pod door forming a gas-tight seal with said pod shell, said pod having an opening;  
a receptacle forming a gas-tight seal with said pod, and positioned to cover said opening in said pod; and  
an interchangeable modular cartridge positioned within said receptacle.
2. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 1, wherein said interchangeable modular cartridge has at least one component selected from the group consisting of (i) a valve, (ii) a filter, (iii) a conditioning agent, and (iv) a blank.
3. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a breather filter.
4. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises an adsorbent filter.
5. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a valve.

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6. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a conditioning agent.
7. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a blank.
8. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a filter and a valve.
9. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a filter and a conditioning agent.
10. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a valve and a conditioning agent.
11. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a filter, a valve and a conditioning agent.
12. (Original) A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 1, further comprising a station for inserting and/or removing said cartridge from the opening.
13. (Original) A cartridge allowing gas to flow through an opening in a SMIF pod, comprising:
  - an interchangeable modular cartridge forming a gas-tight seal with the pod, and positioned to cover the opening of the SMIF pod; and
  - at least one component positioned in said modular cartridge, the component selected from a group consisting of (i) a valve, (ii) a filter, (iii) a conditioning agent, and (iv) a blank.

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14. (Original) A pod as recited in claim 13, said cartridge including a pair of wings for locking said cartridge in the pod.

15. (Original) A pod as recited in claim 13, wherein the opening comprises an inlet through which the gas enters the pod.

16. (Original) A pod as recited in claim 13, wherein the opening comprises an outlet through which the gas exits the pod.

17. (Original) A cartridge allowing gas to flow through an opening in a SMIF pod, comprising:

an interchangeable modular cartridge positioned over the opening of the SMIF pod, the modular cartridge having a pair of wings for locking said cartridge to the pod; and

at least one component positioned in said modular cartridge, the component selected from a group of a valve, a filter, a conditioning agent and a blank.

18. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a wafer enclosure for receiving a plurality of wafers, the wafer enclosure comprising an enclosure portion with an opening and a door to sealingly close the opening, wherein the enclosure has a receptacle;

a set of cartridges configured to sealingly engage the wafer enclosure through the receptacle, wherein the set of cartridges comprise at least two different cartridges selected from the group consisting of a valve, a filter, a conditioning agent and a blank.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein each of the cartridges have an annular shape.

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20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein each of the cartridges has a pair of wings extending from an outer surface thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein each of the cartridges has at least one slot formed in an inner surface thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, and further comprising an interface seal that provides a substantially gas-tight seal between the receptacle and one of the cartridges that is attached to the wafer enclosure.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein each of the cartridges may be removably attached to the receptacle without removing wafers from the wafer enclosure.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the receptacle is positioned on a bottom portion of the wafer enclosure.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the receptacle is at least partially recessed in the bottom portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the wafer enclosure is a SIMIF pod.

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27. (Previously Presented) A method of selectively adapting a wafer enclosure to a desired purging capability, the wafer enclosure having an enclosure portion with an opening and a door to sealingly close the opening, wherein the enclosure has a receptacle, the method comprising:

providing a workstation having a work space and a set of cartridges that includes at least two different cartridges selected from the group consisting of a valve, a filter, a conditioning agent and a blank

selecting one of the cartridges from the set of cartridges that correlates to the desired purging capability;

positioning the cartridge in the work space;

moving the cartridge into the receptacle; and

attaching the cartridge to the wafer enclosure through the receptacle.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein one of the cartridges is moved into the receptacle with an elevator.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, and further comprising engaging the cartridge with a pair of keys that extend from the elevator.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein each of the cartridges include a pair of wings extending from an outer surface thereof, wherein the receptacle includes a pair of slots formed therein that are adapted to receive the pair of wings, and wherein the cartridge is attached to the receptacle by extending the pair of wings through the pair of slots and rotating the cartridge with respect to the receptacle.